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Redevelopment Board Minutes 03/31/2008

Arlington Redevelopment Board
Minutes of March 31, 2008

Members Present: Bruce Fitzsimmons
Andrew West
Roland Chaput

Also Present: Kevin J. O'Brien
David Berry

Andrew West called the meeting to order at 7:00 and opened the hearing on a special permit application to place a wireless communication facility at 47 Mystic St. Bruce Fitzsimmons moved that because there were not enough Board members to grant the permit that the hearing be continued to April 14, 2008 at 7PM. Roland Chaput seconded the motion and the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve.

Roland Chaput asked that the applicant be sent an article he had regarding RF emissions from sites with multiple antennae.

Andrew West then recognized Ted Wilson, Tom Britt and Deanne Benson from Schools for Children to talk about two changes the School wanted to make to space they lease at the Gibbs School building. They first talked about dividing part of the space in the "wing" or "media center" into two classrooms. After some discussion about details, they asked that the Board give them a sense of whether or not it would approve the modification of the space if they went ahead and completed the plans. The Board indicated that it would approve the modification pending the submission of stamped drawings.

Schools for Children then talked about the changes they wanted to make to the outdoor area to the north of the building. After some discussion, the Board suggested that it could approve fencing off the area as SFC proposed, but that in order to maintain public passage, there should not be gates placed across the sidewalk. Schools for Children was asked to consult with the Fire Department to determine if the proposed fencing caused problems for fire fighting at the building. Schools for Children was also asked to contact neighbors and ask the neighbors to express any comment to the ARB by April 14, 2008.

The Board next considered proposed changes to the signage at East Cambridge Savings Bank, 105 Broadway. The proposed changes are limited to the directional signs and signage on the glass door. The changes were minimal. Roland Chaput moved that the proposed changes were consistent with the existing special permit. Bruce Fitzsimmons seconded the motion and the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve.

Andrew West next recognized Dave Berry who presented the applications that had been received for storefront design assistance. The Board reviewed the applications and decided that it would immediately fund design assistance for four and hold the fifth and subsequent applications until it was determined there were sufficient funds to do more. The four that were funded are:
Precision Copiers, 1185 Mass. Ave.
Artwear, 189 Mass. Ave.
Body Mind Systems, 301 Broadway
Wanamaker Hardware, 1298 Mass. Ave.

The Board next reviewed the minutes for its meetings of March 17 and March 24, 2008. After amending the March 17 minutes, Bruce Fitzsimmons moved approval of both sets of minutes. Roland Chaput seconded the motion and the Board voted 3 to 0 to approve.

The meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin J. O'Brien